



Iowa General Assembly

2015 Committee Briefings

Legislative Services Agency – Legal Services Division

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/committees/committee?groupID=663>

STUDIES COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Meeting Dates: [August 10, 2015](#)

Purpose. *This compilation of briefings on legislative interim committee meetings and other meetings and topics of interest to the Iowa General Assembly, written by the Legal Services Division staff of the nonpartisan Legislative Services Agency, describes committee activities or topics. The briefings were originally distributed in the Iowa Legislative Interim Calendar and Briefing. Official minutes, reports, and other detailed information concerning the committee or topic addressed by a briefing can be obtained from the committee's Internet page listed above, from the Iowa General Assembly's Internet page at <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/>, or from the agency connected with the meeting or topic described.*

STUDIES COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

August 10, 2015

Chairperson: Senator Michael E. Gronstal

Vice-Chairperson: Speaker Kraig Paulsen

Overview. The Studies Committee considered mandates in statute and proposals for 2015 interim studies contained in other requests, and recommended the actions listed in this briefing. The recommendations were approved by the Legislative Council.

2015 Interim Studies. Studies were authorized for the 2015 interim with the indicated number of members and meeting days to address the following topics:

Statutory Committees

- **Legislative Fiscal Committee** (Iowa Code §§2.45(2) and 2.46)

Charge: The committee is a permanent legislative committee under the Legislative Council. Duties include directing the administration of performance audits and visitations, studying the operation of state government and making recommendations regarding reorganization to the General Assembly, and conducting studies as assigned by the Legislative Council.

Members: 5 Senate / 5 House

Meeting Days: 2 days

- **Legislative Tax Expenditure Committee** (Iowa Code §§2.45(5) and 2.48)

Charge: The committee is a permanent legislative committee under the Legislative Council. Duties include approving annual estimates of the cost of tax expenditures by December 15 each year, and performing a scheduled review of specified tax credits so that each credit is reviewed at least every five years. The fifth scheduled review is in 2015.

Members: 5 Senate / 5 House

Meeting Days: 2 days

- **State Government Efficiency Review Committee** (Iowa Code §2.69)

Charge: The committee is a permanent legislative committee with five Senate and five House members appointed by legislative leaders at the beginning of a new General Assembly. The committee is required to meet, as directed by the Legislative Council, at least every two years, to review state government organization and efficiency options and receive state government efficiency suggestions offered by the public and public employees. The second report was submitted in 2015 and the third report is due in January 2017.

Members: 5 Senate / 5 House

Meeting Days: 1 day

- **Public Retirement Systems Committee** (Iowa Code §97D.4)

Charge: The committee is a permanent legislative committee that is required to review and evaluate all public retirement systems in place in Iowa, including the Iowa Public Employees' Retirement System (IPERS), the Municipal Fire and Police Retirement System of Iowa (Iowa Code chapter 411), the Department of Public Safety Peace Officers' Retirement System (PORS), and the Judicial Retirement System. The committee typically meets during the legislative interim of odd-numbered years.

Members: 5 Senate / 5 House

Meeting Days: 2 days

- **Iowa Commission on Interstate Cooperation** (Iowa Code §§28B.1 and 28B.2)

Charge: Carry forward Iowa's participation as a member of the Council of State Governments; encourage and assist the friendly contact between officials and employees of this state and officials and employees of other states, the federal government, and local governments and encourage cooperation in the adoption of compacts and uniform laws. The Commission is required to be appointed in accordance with a resolution of the Legislative Council.

Members: 5 Senate / 5 House

Meeting Days: As approved by Legislative Leadership

- **Telecommunications Company Property Tax Review Committee** (2013 Iowa Acts, chapter 123, §36)

Charge: Review the information and recommendations included in a report required to be submitted by the Department of Revenue by August 1, 2015, detailing recommendations for changes to the current system of assessing telecommunications company property and levying property tax against telecommunications services companies.

Members: 3 Senate / 3 House

Meeting Days: 1 day

Other Interim Studies

- **Recycling Policy Study Committee**

Charge: Evaluate the effectiveness of the implementation of recycling policies in Iowa, including but not limited to bottle deposits, handling fees, government oversight and involvement, and the incidence of unreturned containers. The committee shall consult with distributors, retailers, customers, recyclers, and other interested stakeholders, to obtain their input, and shall submit recommendations, if deemed appropriate, to the General Assembly by January 1, 2016.

Members: 3 Senate / 3 House

Meeting Days: 1 day

- **School Finance Inequities Study Committee**

Charge: Review current provisions of the school finance formula and consider alternatives for achieving a more equitable application across all public school districts in the state. Aspects of the study shall include transportation funding with a particular emphasis on small and rural school district transportation funding levels, school district property taxation levels, at-risk student funding challenges, and other school finance formula provisions which may result in funding disparities between school districts. Based on stakeholder input from the Department of Education, school districts, education-related organizations and associations, and other interested stakeholders, the committee shall submit recommendations, if deemed appropriate, to the General Assembly by January 1, 2016.

Members: 5 Senate / 5 House

Meeting Days: 2 days

- **Gambling Casino Restricted License Study Committee**

Charge: Conduct a study regarding licensing of a non-smoking casino in Cedar Rapids, and submit recommendations, if deemed appropriate, to the General Assembly, by January 1, 2016.

Members: 3 Senate / 3 House

Meeting Days: 1 day

Other Studies-Related Items

The Committee recommended adoption by the Legislative Council of the Resolution establishing the Iowa Commission on Interstate Cooperation.

LSA Contacts: Richard Nelson, Legal Services, (515) 242-5822; Andrew Ward, Legal Services, (515) 725-2251.

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